

That's why I stand here today because I would like us to continue to work to help the automobile dealers in Detroit, and as well to help those homeowners who need mortgage repair and mortgage refinance, and give them an opportunity for the American Dream.

I am saddened by the conflict between Georgia and Russia, not Georgia in the United States, but I believe that is a NATO issue. And I would ask that we not give \$1 billion for repairing Georgia; we need to give \$1 billion to help repair our auto industry and to help those in mortgage crisis. Yes, we can be a partner in their rebuild, we believe in their democracy, but it is time now to reinvest in home. Give them a contribution, along with the NATO efforts. Give them the ability to stand strong. Provide for them the opportunity to engage in conflict resolution between Russia and Georgia. But it is time now not to give excessive funds to ensure that they stand up, we need to stand up here in America.

I ask my colleagues to reflect on this so that we can rebuild America in this do-something Congress.

LET'S VOTE ON AMERICAN ENERGY

(Mr. BROUN of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, last week I was here and other Republicans were here. The week before I was here. Republicans have been coming to this floor every single day since we voted to adjourn back in July. We've been here working for the American people to try to find commonsense solutions to our energy crisis.

We hear from the other side that they want to support the poor and the elderly. That's hogwash. The poor and the elderly are suffering more from energy prices than anything else. People can't afford to go to the doctor or drive to take their kids to school. School buses can't take kids to school.

We've been coming here every single day working to try to do something for the American public, but the Democrats went on vacation. They haven't continued to work like the Republicans have. We've got to find solutions to our energy crisis that makes sense economically, makes sense environmentally, and that's exactly what the American Energy Act will do.

So I call upon my Democratic colleagues, let's have an up or down vote on American energy so that we can make sense for the poor, the working class, everybody in America.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Let the Chair remind visitors in the gallery that they are guests of the House of Representatives, but expressions of approval or disapproval of the proceedings are not permitted.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

SPOTTSWOOD W. ROBINSON III AND ROBERT R. MERHIGE, JR. FEDERAL COURTHOUSE

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2403) to designate the new Federal Courthouse, located in the 700 block of East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, as the "Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr. Federal Courthouse," as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

The text of the Senate bill is as follows:

S. 2403

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The United States courthouse located in the 700 block of East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia, shall be known and designated as the "Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr., United States Courthouse".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert R. Merhige, Jr., United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARNEY) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S. 2403.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2403, as amended. This bill honors the distinguished careers of two giants in the civil rights field.

From 1948 until 1960, Judge Robinson served at the NAACP's Legal Defense and Education Fund. During that time he was instrumental in representing the Virginia plaintiffs in the landmark lawsuit *Brown vs. Board of Education*, which declared separate but unequal schools as unconstitutional.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy appointed Judge Robinson to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, a six-member bipartisan commission charged with studying civil rights violations in the United States. Judge Robinson was confirmed by the Senate by a vote of 73-17.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed Judge Robinson to the District Court, and 2 years later he became the first African American to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. Judge Robinson served as Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals from 1981 to 1986, and served on the Court until his retirement in 1992.

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Judge Robert Merhige, Jr. was born in Brooklyn, New York on February 5, 1919. Judge Merhige attended High Point College in North Carolina and received his law degree from the University of Richmond's T.C. Williams School of Law in 1942. Upon graduation he enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps, where he served as a crewman aboard a B-17 bomber based in Italy.

Judge Merhige was U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Virginia in 1967. He served there for over 30 years. He was a frequent lecturer at the University of Virginia and served on the faculty of the University of Richmond. While on the bench, Judge Merhige ordered the University of Virginia to admit women, and 2 years later he led the order to desegregate dozens of schools in Virginia.

Two weeks into his service on the court, Judge Merhige drew the first of many high-profile cases that became the landmark of his career. He ordered the release of black activist H. Rap Brown, who was imprisoned in Virginia after making an impassioned and militant speech in Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, this bill has broad bipartisan support, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

S. 2403 designates the new Federal Courthouse on East Broad Street in Richmond, Virginia, as the "Spottswood W. Robinson III and Robert Merhige Jr. Federal Courthouse." Both Judge Robinson and Judge Merhige were exceptional leaders and prominent figures in the desegregation and civil rights movement.

Spottswood W. Robinson III was a distinguished jurist and a Virginia native. His was a career of firsts, beginning with his graduation from law school, first in his class. He then became the first African American to be appointed to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, the first African American to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals, and the first African American chief judge of the D.C. Circuit.